



Sandra Kalniete | Class of 1996

Sandra Kalniete is a Latvian politician, author, diplomat and independence movement leader. She served as Foreign Minister of Latvia 2002–2004 and as European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries in 2004. Since 2009, she has served as Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the European People’s Party, the largest parliamentary group. Sandra Kalniete is involved in many human rights causes pertaining to totalitarian crimes and has been particularly active in highlighting the atrocities committed by the Soviet Regime.



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For Kalniete, who was born in a Soviet Gulag, politics is very much tied to human emotions and is at the centre of her identity.



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Kalniete has an instrumental role in Latvia’s relationship with the European Union. She was foreign minister of the country primary to its accession as well as the First European Commissioner from Latvia.



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Kalniete received in 2020 the Order of the Grand Duchess of Ukraine, the First Class of Princess Olga. She is actively working in the framework of the Eastern Partnership to promote democratic processes in countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and others.

